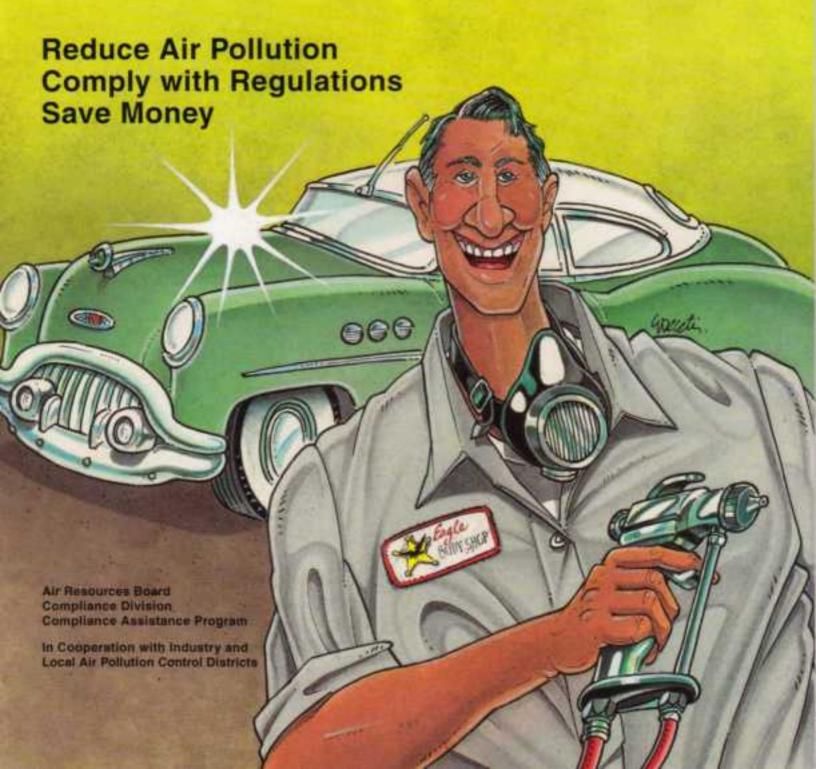
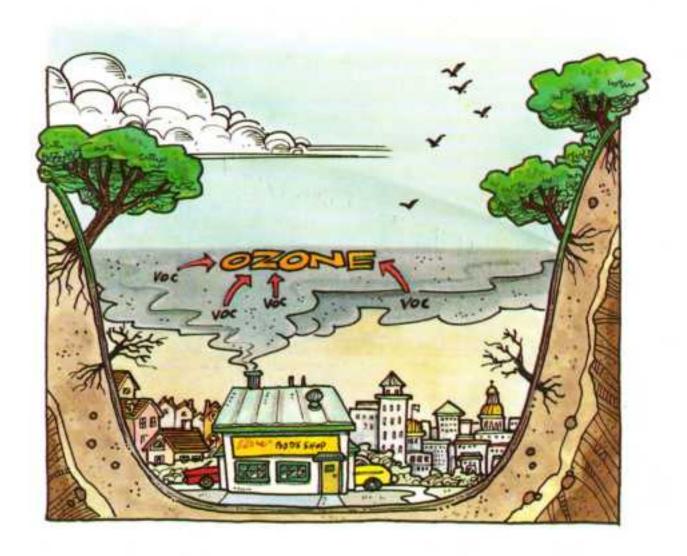
# AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING SELF-INSPECTION HANDBOOK





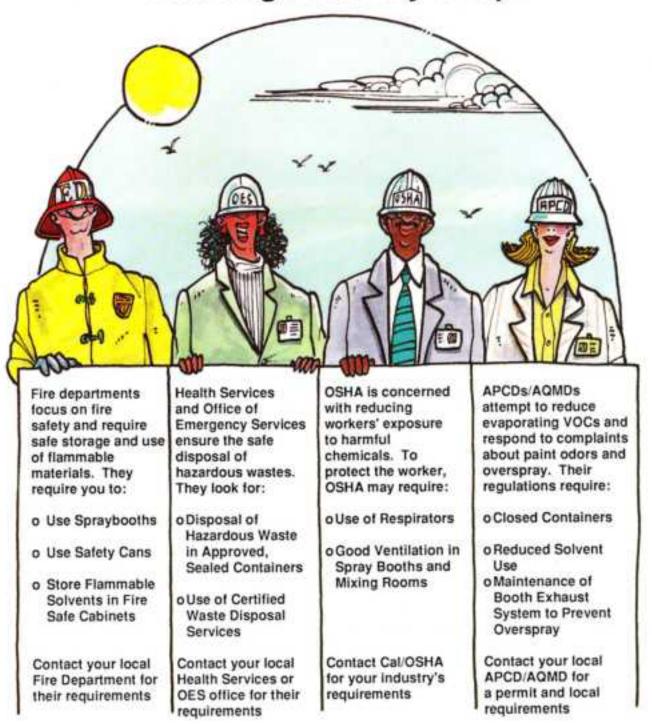
Air pollution increases health care costs and property upkeep. California air pollution control agencies have identified the automobile refinishing business as one of the many which contributes to air pollution. This handbook's purpose is to help you understand and follow the air pollution laws. Following the law can save you money and improve the environment. Read on. See what you can do to clean up our air. You can make a difference!

### Minimize Smog Forming VOCs



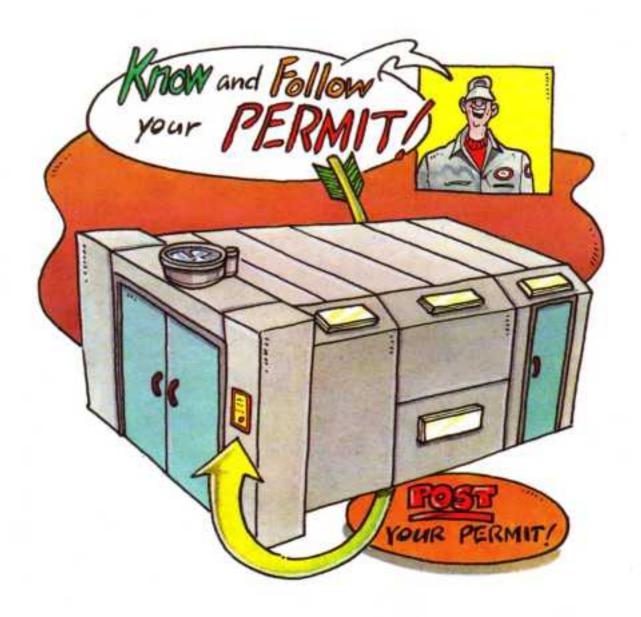
Many organic solvents used by industry contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs combine with other pollutants in the presence of sunlight to form ozone, a major component of smog. Ozone, a corrosive, trapped in the air we breathe damages our health, crops, and property. State and Federal laws require individual Air Pollution Control Districts (APCD) and Air Quality Management Districts (AQMD) to regulate the emissions of VOCs. Automotive refinishing operation VOC emissions come from solvents evaporating from paint and solvent application, cleanup of parts, and storage.

## Who Regulates My Shop?



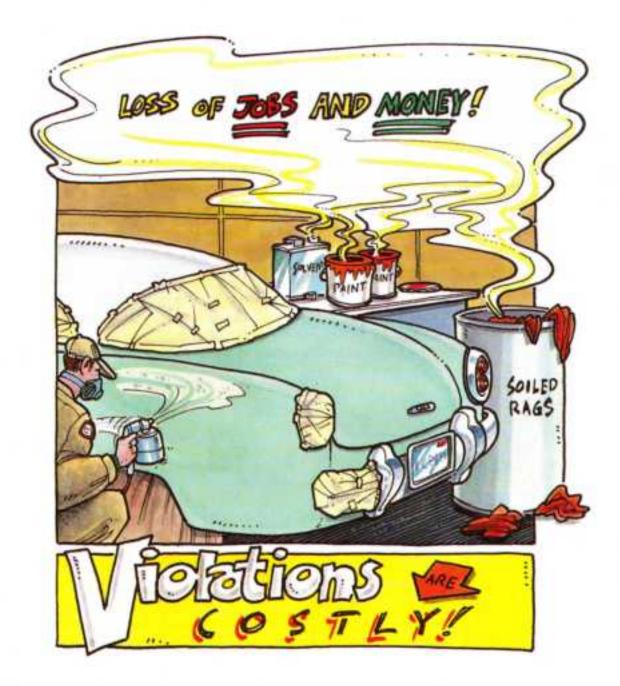
More than a business permit is required to operate your facility. Other governmental agencies which protect you and the environment develop laws on specific health, safety, or environmental concerns. Contact all the agencies which oversee your operations. Learn all the requirements for your shop. Not knowing the law is a poor excuse. **Keep informed.** 

# Most APCDs/AQMDs Require Permits to Operate



Most APCDs/AQMDs require you to obtain a permit for your operations. Your permit may have special conditions. Follow your permit requirements. The original permit lists conditions you are required to follow. Know your conditions and check that your permit is current. Post your permit in a visible area. If you need to update your permit or have any questions about your permit, call your local APCD or AQMD!

# Follow the Law! Save Money and Reduce Air Pollution



You can reduce air pollution and save money by following all air pollution laws. Each violation can cost up to \$25,000 per day. Air pollution laws reduce VOC emissions by reducing VOC evaporation. Following the law can save money by reducing paint and solvent use. Don't spend valuable time and money on violations and wasted paint. Keep a legal shop!

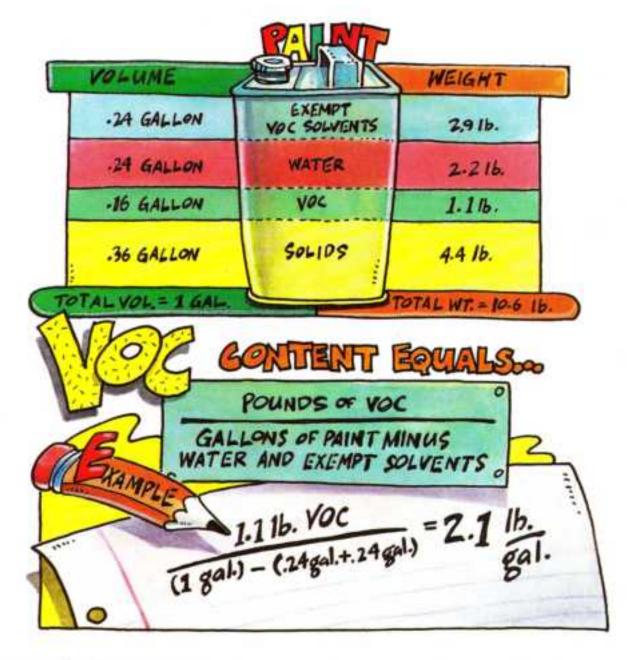
### Be A Good Neighbor! Don't Cause a Public Nuisance.





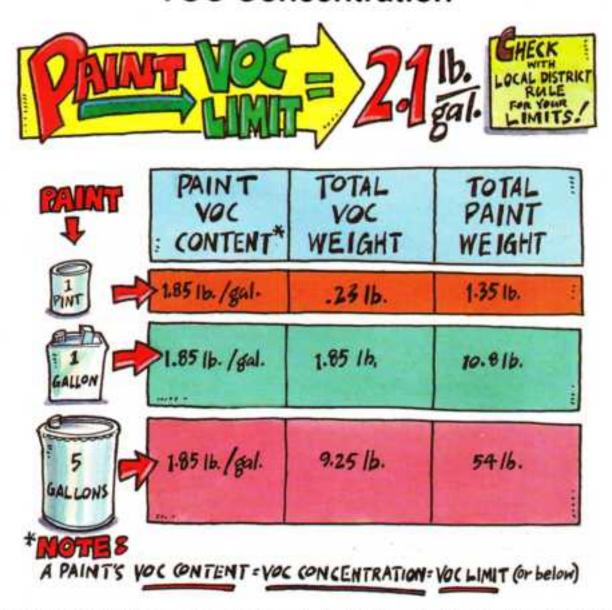
Neighbors can file a public nuisance complaint against you if odors and overspray travel beyond your shop and cause injury or nuisance or endanger their health and safety. If enough complaints are received on your operations or if property damage occurs, the local APCD/AQMD can find you in violation of the law. Minimize odors and overspray. Spray inside the booth and maintain your spray booth's exhaust system. Be aware of where your spray booth vents are, and of your neighbors' location. Be considerate of others. Save money and prevent complaints.

#### What Is VOC Content?



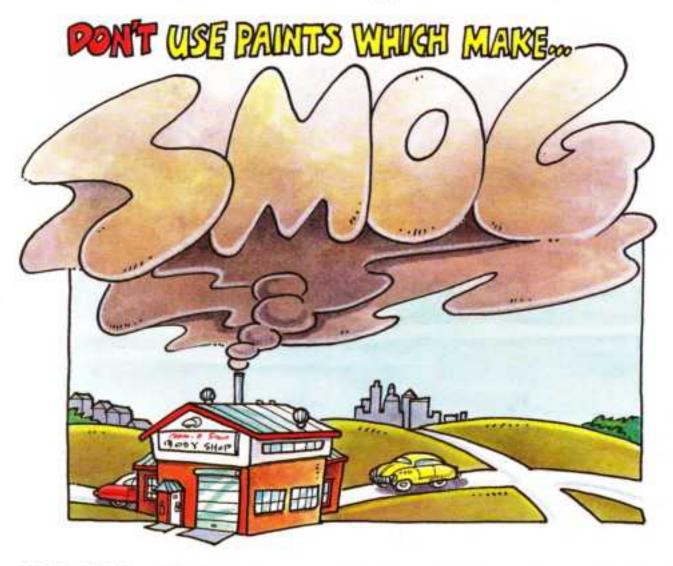
Paints consist of solids (resins, pigments, extenders, additives) and liquids. The liquids include VOC solvents, water and "exempt" solvents. Exempt solvents or exempt VOCs do not react with other air contaminants to make ozone, but may be regulated as toxics or upper atmosphere ozone depleters. Source specific rules regulate all VOCs (except exempt) from sources such as automotive refinishing. Within source specific rules, VOC content is calculated by dividing the VOC weight in grams (g) or pounds (lb) by the paint volume (liter or gallon) minus water and exempt solvents.

### Automotive Refinishing Rules Limit VOC Concentration



Automotive refinishing rules control a paint's VOC content by limiting the VOC concentration of your "mixed" paint. This VOC concentration does not change if you increase the volume of mixed paint used. The VOC concentration does increase when adding VOC solvents (most thinners and reducers). A permit condition may limit the total pounds of VOC you can use daily. This is calculated by multiplying the volume of mixed paint used (minus the water and exempt solvents) times the VOC concentration (pounds per gallon or grams per liter minus the water and exempt solvents). Look for the VOC content on the paint can label or the manufacturer's paint specification sheet. Only some material safety data sheets (MSDS) have VOC information.

# No Automotive Refinishing Rule? Use "Non-Photochemically Reactive" Coatings



APCD/AQMDs which do not have an automotive refinishing rule control VOCs with the general organic solvent rule. The general organic solvent rule defines and limits photochemically reactive paints and solvents used by your shop. VOCs are classified as photochemically or non-photochemically reactive by the speed with which they react with other air contaminants to make smog. Ask your district and check your coating label or data sheet for the photochemical classification. More non-photochemically reactive solvents and paints can be used but allowable quantities are still limited. Check with your APCD/AQMD for the specific requirements for your shop operations.



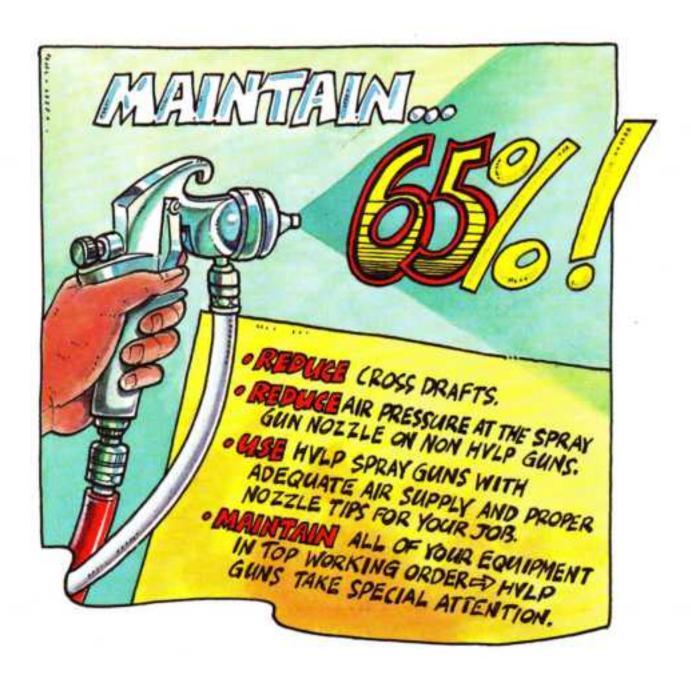
Know your local APCD/AQMD rule VOC limit for your paint. Post mixing instructions to stay at or below the correct rule limit VOC content. **Do not add additional solvents**. Use your measuring stick or scales for accuracy. Mix properly. **If you are not sure** of the correct mixing instructions to stay below the VOC limit, **ask** your supervisor, paint supplier or manufacturer's representative.

## Reduce VOCs By Closing All Containers



Some automotive refinishing rules may require low VOC solvents for cleanup and require equipment to be cleaned in closed systems. Open containers increase VOC evaporation. Always store fresh and used solvent, dirty rags, and paints in tightly closed containers. **Minimize your VOC use**. The less you waste, the more you save, and the cleaner our air gets.

#### **High Transfer Efficiency Saves Paint**



Save money by not wasting paint. Many shops use high transfer efficient HVLP sprayguns to reduce paint usage. Some districts require using high transfer efficient methods. Save paint and produce a quality finish by learning proper equipment use. Do not thin, instead improve your spray technique. A small change in habits can save you money and protect the environment!

# Track Your Paint Usage With Recordkeeping

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Most districts require daily recordkeeping of your shop's paint and solvent use. Record your coating mixtures exactly. Include the manufacturer's name and paint ID number, the amount of each component used and the amount of other solvents added. Accurate records prove your compliance with rule limits. Follow recordkeeping instructions, be consistent, and be accurate!

# Keep Your Shop In Shape! Use a Self-Inspection Checklist



1704600	area in the same	1111	
Complying Coatings Used			
Mix Ratios Posted, VOC (as applied) Below Limit			
Prepared to Posted Mix Ratios			
High Transfer Equipment Properly Used			
HVLP Guns Thoroughly Cleaned and Lubricated			
Proper Surface Preparation Minimize Solvent Use			
Proper Cleanup Materials & Methods			
Recordkeeping Kept Duily, Includes all VOC Materials			
Usage Under Permit Limits, All Permit Conditions Met			
Sprayguns Washed in Closed Containers			
Closed Paint Containers, Closed Solvent Containers			
Closed Waste Containers, Properly Stored & Disposed			
Booth filters in Place While Spraying			
Booth Filter Condition OK, Water Curtain OK			
Booth Manometer Pressure OK Fluid Level OK, Gauge Zeroed			
Exhaust Fans OK			
Appropriate Safety Gear in Use			

Prevent costly violations. Identify any problems and take action! Good maintenance routines keep your equipment working properly and prevent complaints. Inspect your shop daily. Check your equipment for leaks and good maintenance. Refresh your memory on VOC and solvent cleaning requirements. Use this pocket to keep your self-inspection list, local district record keeping forms and other helpful information. Do your part to save money, protect your health, and clean up the environment.

# **Need More Information?**

**Air Resources Board (800) 952-5588** 

District:



#### **Multi-County Districts**

- 1 Bay Area (415) 749-5000
- 2 Feather River (530) 634-7659
- 3 Great Basin (760) 872-8211
- 4 Monterey Bay (831) 647-9411
- 5 North Coast (707) 443-3093
- 6 Northern Sierra (530) 274-9360
- 7 South Coast (909) 396-2000
- 8 Yolo-Solano (530) 757-3650
- 9 San Joaquin Valley (559) 230-6000

#### **County Districts**

Kern (661) 862-5250

Amador (209) 257-0112 Antelope Valley (661) 723-8070 Butte (530) 891-2882 Calaveras (209) 754-6504 Colusa (530) 458-0590 El Dorado (530) 621-6662 Glenn (530) 934-6500 Imperial (760) 482-4606

Lake (707) 263-7000 Lassen (530) 251-8110 Mariposa (209) 966-2220 Mendocino (707) 463-4354 Modoc (530) 233-6419 Mojave Desert (760) 245-1661 Tehama (530) 527-3717 No. Sonoma (707) 433-5911 Placer (530) 889-7130 Sacramento (916) 874-4800

San Diego (858) 650-4700 San Luis Obispo (805) 781-4247 Santa Barbara (805) 961-8800 Shasta (530) 225-5789 Siskiyou (530) 841-4029 Tuolumne (209) 533-5693 Ventura (805) 645-1400

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California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board

